



The Fred W. Smith
NATIONAL LIBRARY
for the Study of
GEORGE WASHINGTON
at Mount Vernon

During his all-too-brief retirement at Mount Vernon, George Washington wrote to a friend, "I have no other houses to build, except one, which I must erect for the accommodation and security of my military, civil and private papers, which are voluminous and may be interesting." Washington started to assemble these books and papers in a small structure adjacent to the Mansion. But he ran out of time, and probably energy, departing this world in December 1799.

Now, more than two centuries later, the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association is finally turning George Washington's unfulfilled dream into a reality. Today's groundbreaking, therefore, is of historic importance – we are fulfilling the wishes of George Washington and promising to protect his words and deeds as vigorously as we protect his Mansion.

We were able to accept this challenge only because of the remarkable generosity of the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation and its patriotic chairman, Fred W. Smith, which committed \$38 million to the project. This easily ranks as the largest gift in Mount Vernon history. The Foundation inspired many others to follow in its footsteps, particularly John and Adrienne Mars, and Richard and Helen DeVos.

As members of the Library Task Force started to visit and study similar institutions across the country, the vision for the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of

George Washington has grown and diversified. The final design not only includes state-of-the-art facilities for Washington's books and papers, but also has room for other archival collections and modern-day books on Washington. Visiting scholars can study Washington in a light-filled reading room or in private offices. They can stay for weeks or months, residing in a charming guest house, to delve deep into Washington's life and times.

But the knowledge gleaned by Washington scholars – past, present and future – should not be shared just with colleagues, or even with Mount Vernon's million visitors a year. That is why the research and scholarly staff members are adjacent to the best history educators and experts in technology, who will use every means possible to spread this knowledge on Washington from sea to shining sea.

Finally, the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington will have an array of meeting and conference spaces that will be used to conduct in-depth learning programs for special audiences, especially teachers. Leaders from all walks of life will participate in institutes that focus on Washington's character and leadership, which

will set the gold standard for each new generation.

The National Library will quickly become the intellectual center of the world for George Washington studies, a hub of creative outreach programs that will reach the hearts and minds of millions, and a place where American leaders can be nurtured and encouraged to follow Washington's example.



Fred W. Smith cuts the ribbon in October 2006 for the Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center, to the delight of renowned author David McCullough.

Early Partners

The following donors have made generous commitments to the project during the earliest stage of the Campaign for the Library, and their names will be included on a Wall of Honor in the building, hopefully joined by dozens of future donors who believe in protecting the legacy of George Washington.

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COMMANDER IN CHIEF: \$30 Million-plus | GENERAL: \$10M-\$29.9 Million
BENEFACTOR: \$5-\$9.9 Million | PATRON: \$1-\$4.9 Million | SPONSOR: \$500-\$999 Thousand
LEADER: \$250-\$499 Thousand | SUSTAINER: \$100-\$249 Thousand | FELLOW: \$25-\$99 Thousand

Groundbreaking Ceremony

10:30 a.m., Thursday, April 14, 2011

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

ANN BOOKOUT, REGENT

National Anthem

CARESSA CAMERON, MISS AMERICA 2010

Welcome and Introduction of Special Guests

THE REGENT

The Campaign for The Library

GAY HART GAINES, VICE REGENT FOR FLORIDA

The Legacy of Washington

FRED W. SMITH, CHAIRMAN

DONALD W. REYNOLDS FOUNDATION

In Appreciation

THE VICE REGENT FOR FLORIDA

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CLARE EDWARDS, VICE REGENT FOR CONNECTICUT

Introduction of Speaker

JOHN WARNER

U.S. SENATOR (RET.)

Keynote Remarks

DR. ROBERT M. GATES

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Over Two Hundred Years in the Making

“GEORGE WASHINGTON”

Building a National Library

JAMES C. REES, PRESIDENT & CEO

GEORGE WASHINGTON’S MOUNT VERNON

Groundbreaking

God Bless America

CARESSA CAMERON

Guests are invited to self-tour the site and partake of light refreshments following the program.



George Washington's
MOUNT VERNON
ESTATE, MUSEUM & GARDENS